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Report of the Meeting on Climate Change Related Statistics for Producers and Users, 8-9 October 2013

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Summary

This document presents the outcome of the Meeting on Climate Change Related Statistics for Producers and Users, which took place from 8 to 9 October 2013 in Geneva. The meeting reviewed a draft report with recommendations for improving climate change related statistics, drafted by a Task Force on climate change related statistics. The meeting was comprised of four sessions discussing: (a) greenhouse gas emission inventories and official statistics; (b) climate change related statistics; (c) statistical infrastructure; and (d) the way forward. The conclusions of the meeting will provide input to the final report of the Task Force, which will be presented to the Conference of European Statisticians in April 2014 for endorsement.

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I. Introduction

1. The Meeting on Climate Change Related Statistics for Producers and Users was held on 8-9 October in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. Participants from the following countries attended the meeting: Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Switzerland and United Kingdom. These participants represented national statistical offices (NSOs), ministries of environment, environmental agencies and research institutes of countries.

3. Representatives of the following international organisations attended the meeting: Directorate-General for Climate Action of the European Commission (DG CLIMA), Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change, Eurostat, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), World Bank, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and UNECE.

4. The meeting was chaired by Mr. R. Smith of Canada who presented the context of work of the Task Force on climate change related statistics. Mr. Smith also presented the plan for finalising the Task Force's report with recommendations towards improving the climate change related statistics collected by national statistical systems and enhancing their utility for the compilation of greenhouse gas inventories. The Task Force was set up by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in November 2011, and the final report is planned to be presented to the CES in April 2014 for endorsement.

II. First session – Greenhouse gas emission inventories and official statistics

5. The session was organised by Mr. B. Newson of Eurostat. It focused on sections 2.1-2.3, 2.5 and 4.1 of the Task Force's draft report which deal with the links between official statistics and greenhouse gas emission inventories. The session organiser introduced the following recommendations 1-3 of the report and some examples of how the recommendations could be implemented:

- NSOs must improve data and statistics required for greenhouse gas inventories;
- NSOs should be considered as official institutions in the national greenhouse gas inventory systems in all countries, and they should be proactive in reaching out to national GHG inventory compilers;
- The international statistical community should take an active role in contributing to the global GHG inventory system.

6. The discussant, Ms. H. Champion of the United Kingdom Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), briefly explained their greenhouse gas inventory process. Their greenhouse gas inventories are compiled by DECC who produces official statistics on energy and climate change. All of DECC's statistics are classified as National Statistics, reflecting the fact that they comply with the Code of Practise for Official Statistics and are authorised by the Chief Statistician for DECC, who has a direct reporting line to the UK's National Statistician – this system is common for many statistics in the UK. The emission estimates are compiled under the status of official statistics. The key benefits of this system include ensured independence and impartiality of the emissions reporting, quality assurance of the publication procedures, improved communication of the data and direct integration

with the strategy and target setting for the inventories. The following issues were raised as a response to the questions by the discussant:

A. How to ensure that national statistical systems are more aware of how their data are, or could be, used in inventories?

7. Increasing the awareness of statistics that already exist is important for avoiding duplication of work. As the coordinator of the national statistical system, NSOs should promote better awareness of how the data belonging to the statistical system are, or could be, used for greenhouse gas inventories. Official statistics should be the backbone of the inventories, and additional data collection should be carried out only when official statistics are not available.

8. Lack of communication can lead to problems in the national inventory system, for instance an NSO decided to discontinue the iron and steel statistics which took away a data source that covered about 10 per cent of emissions in the country. It could be helpful if National Inventory Systems set out a formal procedure to acquire data from the national statistical system for the inventories. This would ensure NSOs' awareness of the data needed by the inventory compiler.

9. Better communication could be achieved by creating a national working group consisting of inventory compilers and the organisations from the national statistical system that provide data for inventories. The working group could share information, review existing data and data collections and discuss related challenges. On European level, good results have been achieved by organising a joint session of already established working groups, e.g. a joint meeting to discuss energy statistics between DG CLIMA's working group on annual inventories and Eurostat's energy statistics working group, including the respective country representatives. Similar working groups or joint sessions could be used in other areas, such as agriculture, waste, etc.

10. A good starting point for improving NSOs' contribution to inventory compilation would be to draft, together with the inventory compilers, a list of national priorities and a roadmap on data development needs for inventories. NSOs could explore the statistical data available for inventory compilation and consider if their usefulness could be improved for inventory purposes. The report could be restructured to focus more on the needs of all user groups.

11. Better knowledge of inventory methodologies within the NSO could help improve the comparability and links between inventory data and official statistics. Relevant knowledge could be accumulated by studying the Common Reporting Format (CRF) tables, the IPCC methodology and guidelines, as well as the issues raised in the Inventory Review Reports regarding source data for the inventories.

12. Comparability problems could be overcome by (i) describing the differences between inventory data and official statistics, (ii) developing standardized tools for data comparison, such as correspondence tables, and (iii) explaining the differences by using reconciliation items or so called "difference components".

13. Efforts should be made to use the same source data for similar statistics where possible, especially for energy statistics, energy balances, environmental accounts and greenhouse gas inventories, as well as for other reporting protocols for example on air pollution.

B. Should national statistical offices be more involved in the national inventory systems?

14. Successful functioning of the national inventory system depends on the relationship between the NSO and the inventory compiler who should both be attentive towards each other's work. A clear distribution of responsibilities is important. Therefore, good practices in collaboration during the inventory process could be presented in the report.

15. NSOs could improve their contribution by sharing good practice on how NSOs can support the inventory systems. Regardless of whether the NSOs are formally part of the national inventory system, it is important that the statistical community be engaged in the work by providing and improving the source data.

16. The recommendations in the report should focus on how NSOs can assist in the inventory compilation in practice. NSOs can improve the compilation process and the quality of activity data. Improvements are needed especially on land use and forestry data. The quality of energy data is also essential for the inventories. NSOs could also help improve the timeliness of activity data. Producing early estimates of CO_2 based on monthly energy statistics should be highlighted as a good practice in the report.

17. NSOs could be involved in quality assurance of inventory data. Quality means different things for official statisticians, inventory compilers and data users. (i) For statisticians it refers to adherence to quality standards and a self-assessment of how the data are collected and measured. (ii) Inventory compilers, on the other hand, rely on scientific methods and external quality assurance processes done by a third party who is not involved in the process of inventory compilation, and who compares the inventory results with independent data sources. The Annex IV on quality frameworks should refer to the respective legislation for official statistics and inventories. (iii) Users often compare inventory data with other sources and would value better consistency among other things.

18. Overcoming confidentiality problems could sometimes be possible by involving NSOs in the inventory compilation. Confidentiality of respondents' data often prevents access to the lower aggregation levels of activity data, such as production of manufactured goods (PRODCOM) or the 4-digit level data by the International Standard Activity Classification (ISIC) that are needed for the inventories. Those who are not part of the national statistical system are not entitled to access confidential data, or the administrative data that NSOs have. This is why in some countries the part of inventory compilation that requires the use of confidential data could be done by NSOs. Similarly, in some cases the data submitted under the European Emissions Trading system is not accessible to NSOs.

19. NSOs could be involved in the inventory review process by providing experts to participate in the inventory review teams. Sometimes the review teams draw attention to statistically insignificant gaps in reporting.[1] Participation of NSOs' experts in the review teams could offer more insight into how official statistical data could be better used in the inventory, and for considering the relevance of each reporting category in the country.

[1] The upcoming revised guidelines for reporting inventories in the UNFCCC process will still require all emission categories to be reported regardless of their relevance. For those categories which are insignificant, a note "not estimated" can be used instead of providing the data. An emission should only be considered insignificant if the likely level of emissions is below 0.05 per cent of the national total GHG emissions, and does not exceed 500 kt CO2 eq. The total national aggregate of estimated emissions for all gases and categories considered insignificant shall remain below 0.1 per cent of the national total GHG emissions. The new guidelines will also allow countries to reject an obligation to report on a particular emissions category.

C. What roles and responsibilities should the UNECE and other international organisations have?

20. Climate change related statistics need to be developed at several levels: (i) Some data needs related to climate change are typically sub-national. (ii) Coordination, on the other hand, should be improved nationally among the organisations involved in measuring climate change related issues. (iii) Several layers exist also at the international level – regional, European Union and wider international level.

21. Most standards, classifications and methods of greenhouse gas inventories and official statistics are developed and agreed upon through international processes. The meeting agreed that better dialogue is needed between the international organisations working on climate issues, for instance for UNECE, UNFCCC, IPCC, WMO and others such as International Renewable Energy Agency and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. Therefore, taking the climate change related issues into account in standards and classifications requires action at international level.

22. National statistical offices should be represented at the international level, for example through the CES and the UNECE Secretariat to achieve closer collaboration with international organisations active in climate issues.

23. Both the international statistical community and inventory compilers should be better informed about new priorities stemming from the climate negotiations. The negotiations not only have implications for inventories but also for international statistical development. Through closer cooperation with UNFCCC and IPCC, the CES could provide a forum for informing national statistical offices of the statistical requirements concerning inventories.

24. Harmonization of standards between official statistics and greenhouse gas inventories can be best addressed through formal UNFCCC process where countries are represented. Statisticians could comment on the inventory methodology through the national representatives of the relevant UNFCCC forums. It is more difficult to influence the IPCC methodology development work as it is performed by IPCC working groups consisting of independent experts and directed by a relatively small IPCC Secretariat. The new 2006 IPCC Guidelines will be adopted in November 2013. While getting acquainted with the new methodological guidelines, the statistical community will have time to figure out how to get involved in the possible future methodology development by IPCC and UNFCCC.

25. The roles and responsibilities of international organisations involved in measuring climate change related issues should be discussed. The Task Force should work with the international organisations to define what could be the role of NSOs in support of the international work on measuring climate change. The way in which the data and expertise of the statistical community could support the work of international organisations should be reviewed.

26. The international statistical community could have a role in quality assurance of inventories and sharing good practices of data provision and compilation. The European Code of Practice and the global framework set up by the Fundamental Principles form an institutional setting for compiling impartial statistical information, particularly useful for measuring climate change related issues.

27. The session organiser concluded that the meeting agrees with the recommendations of the report. The discussion provided practical ideas and clarifications that will be taken into account in the chapter dealing with inventories. The discussions highlighted the importance of communication between the statistical community, inventory compilers and

data users. The report should illustrate country practices in dealing with inventory data quality, confidentiality and consistency problems. Inventory Review Reports could improve NSOs' awareness of the related data requirements and quality issues. More should be done at the international level as most of the standards, classifications and methods are developed at that level.

III. Second session – Climate change related statistics

28. The second session was organised by Ms. J. Hass of Statistics Norway. It focused on sections 3.1-3.3, 3.5 and 4.2 of the Task Force's draft report. The session discussed climate change related statistics other than the data needed for greenhouse gas inventories. These statistics include data on the drivers of climate change (excluding greenhouse gases), and data on the consequences of climate change, such as on the impacts of climate change and the related vulnerabilities, efforts to mitigate these impacts and adapt to them. The session organiser introduced the following recommendations 4-6 of the report and some examples of how the recommendations could be implemented:

- NSOs must improve the contribution of official statistics to climate change analysis. One of the first steps can be to facilitate access to the existing information;
- The usefulness of the existing environmental, social and economic statistics for climate change analysis should be improved, for example by better structuring the existing information;
- NSOs should review the key data needs of climate policy makers and analysts in their country and consider development of new statistics.

29. The discussant, Mr. J. Mysiak of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change, noted the importance of the report in terms of promoting the involvement of NSOs for instance in the development of climate change risk and adaptation statistics. He underlined the need to prioritize the recommendations by identifying areas for possible quick gains, where responding to user needs could be done at low costs to NSOs and high benefits for users. The report should also consider the economic value of making the existing data more accessible and useful for climate policies. The following issues were raised as a response to the questions by the discussant:

A. To what extent is it possible to reuse existing data or redesign the data collection systems while maintaining continuity?

30. NSOs' responsibility is to promote the use of the existing data in society, for instance by informing stakeholders of the possibilities these data provide. If stakeholders do not have a clear idea of the existing data, duplicated data collection activities may be created unintentionally.

31. In some cases small adjustments to data collections may improve the value of the collected data for climate change analysis notably, and they could lead to better use of the limited resources. For instance, the Eurostat Urban Audit Survey provides valuable information through more than 50 environmental variables on European cities, but at the same time lacks essential information for example on water use.

32. Various modifications would be needed to make the currently available data useful for analysing small regions. Official statistics are often not detailed enough, and many statistics are compiled based on samples that do not allow making estimations for small areas. In some cases, relevant data could be sourced from administrative registers that typically cover the population better, but provide a limited number of variables.

B. What should be and what should not be part of the role of NSOs? For instance, should NSOs certify the quality of data produced by others?

33. The role of NSOs is to coordinate the development of climate change related statistics in the national statistical system and to improve the quality of data and to make the existing data that are relevant for climate change analysis more easily accessible. What exactly should these data include and how to make them more easily accessible needs to be discussed in more detail.

34. Creating a national expert group or forum for discussion with users of climate change related statistics and other stakeholders, e.g. the meteorological services and the scientific community, would help NSOs set national priorities, identify priority data needs and select the most relevant data they could offer. Cooperation is a necessity for developing good mechanisms for improving the quality of data and sharing the relevant data and meeting users' needs.

35. NSOs should lead the work for developing national portals of climate change related information. It would not be necessary to physically bring together all data, but to provide easier access to them. As statistics serve multiple purposes, an increasing number of dashboards exists and could be developed, but sufficient resources should be found for the work. Another question is how to select the data for the portal in a neutral and comprehensive way.

36. NSOs cannot certify the quality of non-official statistics produced outside the national statistical system. In the case where an NSO facilitates access to all data relevant for climate change, the NSO should direct users' questions to the producer of each dataset. At the same time, NSOs should promote improvements in the coherence and reliability of data produced by others. In some areas improvements may be difficult to achieve though; environmental data are particularly challenging to develop as they are scattered across organisations.

37. A clear approach for providing access to non-official statistics through portals together with official statistics needs to be developed. One option would be to have part of the portal for official statistics and another for the rest. Another option would be to indicate clearly the status of data (official/non-official) in the portal.

38. The statistical community should be involved in reviewing statistical standards from the viewpoint of climate change and improving the standardisation of climate change related data and metadata before a number of global portals are set up. Several global portals for climate information exist already, for example the Global Climate Observing System which focuses on essential climate variables (biophysical meteorological information), not on statistics related to climate change. The International Renewable Energy Agency and the International Energy Agency are developing a joint Global Renewable Energy Policies and Measures Database.

39. Improved mutual understanding could be achieved through establishing a regular international forum for discussions and sharing experience, and through developing common terminology among climate information networks and official statisticians. The various statistical terms, such as confidentiality, need to be explained in the report for better mutual understanding of each other's work.

C. Do NSOs have the capacity to cover the full scope of climate change related statistics and to connect the datasets related to climate change? Where are the low hanging fruits?

40. NSOs are not in the position to try to meet all users' data requirements related to climate change. Climate change relates to a broad range of issues and climate policies may need to respond to new and often unforeseen developments or to address complex cross-cutting issues, such as ensuring reduction of emissions while maintaining strong economic growth. Data needs differ across user groups and may sometimes be highly complex, e.g. among the scientific community.

41. It would be useful to assess data needs by user groups as illustrated in figure 3 of the report. NSOs should define what is both relevant and feasible by comparing data needs to the costs of responding to them. A distinction between the critical data needs and the data that are "nice to know" should be made.

42. The meeting agreed on the recommendation of the report that the work should (i) start from providing better access to the data that exist; (ii) then the existing data should be made more useful, for example by increasing geo-referencing; (iii) third step would be to develop new statistics to fill in gaps. The sequencing of work could be made clearer in the report and more suggestions for practical actions in each step be added.

43. In the beginning, for example, improvements could be achieved by: (i) demonstrating possible uses of the existing official statistical data with regard to climate change; (ii) considering the possibility to facilitate access to key data through the creation of national portals of climate change related information; (iii) avoiding duplication of data collection through better collaboration with data producers and researchers; and (iv) reviewing existing data collections to identify where some changes could be done for the benefit of climate change analysis.

44. NSOs should facilitate the use of multiple datasets and improve the possibilities for others to access official statistical data in a format that allows linking it with other data. Different official statistical datasets should be made more compatible and inter-linkable. As the coordinator of the statistical systems, NSOs are also in a position to promote better coherence of data among data producers. The report should consider how far NSOs should go in this role.

45. It would be useful to define more precisely the priority areas for further work, although national priorities often depend on the ways in which climate change manifests itself in the country or region in question. National Communications and Biennial Update Reports to UNFCCC could help define these priorities. The data requirements of these reports will stay stable for several years and can help determine the key socio-economic statistics that are linked to climate change.

46. Two types of data are typically needed for monitoring climate change related issues: data describing the slow onset developments and data on extreme weather events.

- The slow onset developments require long-term monitoring with a set of regularly produced time series to develop baselines and track change rates. For this purpose, the national communications require data on socio-economic developments, national circumstances, impact of policies and measures on emissions, basic data used for emission projections, data on vulnerability, financial resources and assistance, transfer of technology, education, training and public awareness.
- NSOs should define together with national meteorological services what kind of statistics related to extreme events could be found from official statistics.

Monitoring the consequences of extreme events and performing risk assessments require tailored data e.g. on land use, land take and households in the area.

47. Data needs can be defined also by reviewing questions that climate policies are tackling. These questions include: Do climate policies lead to increased economic growth and creation of greener jobs? Why did emissions increase or decrease? Who is emitting and how consumption contributes to emissions? Which industries are among the most energy or carbon intensive? Which industries rely most on renewable energy? Energy, economic and labour statistics and for example heating degree days are needed to answer these questions. For risk assessments geographical data on population density, types of land-use and natural conditions are needed.

48. The session organiser noted the agreement on the recommendations of the report. The recommendations could be further sequenced to suggest concrete intermediate steps and list the main statistical domains concerned. The report will benefit from the many practical suggestions presented at the meeting, and could emphasise strategic improvement needs, such as adding the geographical dimension to socio-economic data and improving awareness of the existing official statistical data that are relevant for analysing climate change. In general, better communication is a key to improving climate change related statistics. This could be done through a national forum with users and stakeholders. At the international level, a call for partnerships was made to join forces for the development of more comprehensive information service for climate change analysis and monitoring.

IV. Third session – Statistical infrastructure

49. The third session was organised by Mr. L. Kolttola of Statistics Finland. The session focused on sections 2.4, 3.4 and 4.3 of the Task Force's draft report. The session organiser presented the challenges posed by climate change related statistics and greenhouse gas inventories to the statistical infrastructure. The session organiser introduced the following main recommendations 7-9 of the report and some examples of how the recommendations could be implemented:

(a) NSOs should review classification systems, registers, definitions and statistical frameworks to see that the needs related to climate change analysis are appropriately addressed;

(b) Statisticians will gradually require new kinds of expertise and ability to adopt new methodologies for producing climate change related statistics;

(c) In the longer run, organisational changes may be needed in NSOs to support the production of climate change related statistics that cut across the statistical system.

50. The discussant, Ms. C. Cahill of Statistics Canada, noted that infrastructure issues are interrelated and therefore the statistical production process should be reviewed as a whole, including questions such as "do we have the sampling frames that include climate issues?", "do we have the methodologies and production resources to produce information at the desired level of detail?", etc. The report could consider how NSOs can cope with emerging analytical needs that cannot be predetermined. As researchers are more interested in finding answers than accessing microdata, NSOs should invest in having sufficient capacity to guide researchers. The report could also provide some examples to explain what is meant by e.g. modernising statistical production. The following issues were raised as a response to the questions by the discussant:

A. What specific infrastructure issues should be first reviewed with a climate change "lens"?

51. It may be difficult to determine the exact areas where statistical production should be reviewed before a key set of climate change related statistics has been defined, and before NSOs have started to implement the set by deriving the required data. At that point NSOs may see more clearly where changes in data collections and production systems are needed.

52. The infrastructure behind inventory compilation is quite advanced, well monitored and regulated. There are, however, challenges due to the processes for ensuring confidentiality of NSOs' data. Protection of confidential data is regulated by statistical laws in most countries, and is an important prerequisite for the production of reliable statistics. Confidentiality rules are not easily changed and they may prevent the provision of detailed data for those operating under different legislation, such as inventory compilers and other producers of climate change related information. Furthermore, the need to use climate change data for regulatory purposes makes it necessary to collect additional data since data collected in the national statistical system can only be used for statistical purposes.

53. When there is an opportunity to revise statistical legislation the viewpoint of measuring climate change should be taken into account. In several countries the NSO will not be able to obtain any resources for developing climate change related statistics without an explicit legal mandate. Therefore, consideration should be given to the explicit inclusion of environmental issues, and thus climate change, in statistical laws. The new law regulating the production of climate change related statistics in Mexico would be an interesting case study for the report.

54. Regardless the different ways of organising the national statistical systems, NSOs' coordination task should extend to environment statistics. In many UNECE countries with developing statistical systems, the NSO does not yet have the mandate to be involved in environment or climate change related statistics which hampers efforts towards harmonizing these statistics and streamlining the statistical work.

55. The report should consider which classifications should be reviewed and how. The relevant classifications include for example classifications on education (ISCED), employment (ICSE), industry (ISIC), trade (SITC) and products (CPC). Classifications should be reviewed from the climate perspective during normal revisions process by dedicating a specific group to assessing how the classification supports measuring climate change related issues.

56. If classifications would allow for climate change related issues to be identified, NSOs could extract the relevant statistical data from existing databases. Ideally classifications would allow extracting climate relevant data e.g. on climate education, climate change research, engineering jobs related to solar panels or other green jobs, low-carbon industries, green technologies, biotechnology products, international trade flows of climate change related products and services, services on adaptation and mitigation, other environmental and climate services. It is, however, possible that the current setup of classifications would not work for measuring a crosscutting issue like climate change, and that it would require adding another dimension or layer to the existing classifications.

57. The recommendation on new expertise and better understanding of natural sciences should focus more on getting the required expertise through partnering and collaboration with the relevant agencies and experts. Some of the areas of greenhouse gas inventories, for example land use, require special expertise that would not be efficient for NSOs to acquire.

58. It is important that NSOs would nominate a contact person for climate change related statistics. This person would maintain contacts with inventory compilers and know their data requirements. The report could recommend options for NSOs regarding the location of such a contact point in the organisation, such as the unit that compiles environmental-economic accounts, especially if the air emission accounts are compiled there. The second option could be the unit for environmental statistics, and third the energy statistics unit. The organisation of national statistical systems differs across countries, so the relevant location may also vary.

B. Do we need guidelines on how to leverage or present SEEA accounts to help interpret national greenhouse gas inventories?

59. The report should give more specific recommendations on how to make the existing statistics more useful or relevant for analysing climate change related phenomena, e.g. how to describe climate change in connection with economic issues through the National Accounting Matrix with Environmental Accounts (NAMEA), how to assess employment data from climate change point of view and how to make use of the SEEA central framework for climate change analysis.

60. NSOs could help increase the analytical usefulness of greenhouse gas inventories by providing some contextual data e.g. by using energy statistics, providing a breakdown by industries or developing accounts similar to the air emission accounts for other sectors. For example, Statistics Canada recasts the Canadian official GHG emissions data following the accounting guidelines for physical flow accounts as described in the SEEA to provide users with a tool better suited to economic analysis. They also explain the differences of the SEEA concepts and the inventory concepts.

61. SEEA could be an answer for improved linking of environmental and economic data, and could offer increased analytical value in climate change issues. Expanding SEEA gradually towards measurement of climate change related issues would be an important strategic direction for NSOs' work.

C. Should there be further guidance for NSOs in development of geographical information programs?

62. Geo-referencing is a precondition for compiling small area statistics. Despite several success stories in the use of geo-referencing for official statistics, NSOs often have a limited capacity to increase the amount of geo-reference data and to ensure the quality. The report should recommend some good practices of NSOs in geo-referencing.

63. It is important to consider what the purpose of geo-referencing is. NSOs need to be careful with geo-referencing to ensure the quality of geo-referenced data. There may be problems in allocating variables geographically, for example between enterprises' headquarters and their local units. Another issue is where to allocate pollution originating from a certain factory: to the location of the factory or to the area where the pollution spreads.

64. Geo-referencing the emission or pollution sources is not an issue in Europe, where the Emissions Trading System provides information about the polluters. Furthermore, the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) provides publicly available geo-referenced emissions data with information on industrial pollutants, including greenhouse gas emissions. Several countries already provide their data through this service.

65. The report should be more specific about which statistical domains should be geo-referenced. More work is needed in particular to provide socio-economic data with a geo-reference. Ability to link geo-referenced emissions data with economic statistics, such as national accounts variables, would increase the analytical value of data.

66. The participants identified two layers of data that should be geo-referenced for linking with climate information: bio-physical[2] and socio-economic[3] data. Linking these with climate information could enable, for example, the analysis of green jobs, green economy, low-carbon industries, cost and price fluctuations as a consequence of climate events, sustainability of energy and resource use, impacts on population, agricultural productivity and changes in tourism flows, the vulnerability of regions to the effects of climate change as well as analysing the possible impacts of adaptation and mitigation activities.

- The relevant socio-economic data include e.g.: drivers of climate change (production, consumption), economy (gross value added, output by industries, costs, prices), employment, population (density, household structures, health, migration, urbanisation), transport, infrastructure networks and tourism, taxation and subsidies, financial support, innovation and technology diffusion.
- The relevant biophysical data include e.g.: soil (land-use, vegetation, droughts, floods, soil quality), use of natural resources (water consumption, energy use and sources), waste generation, agriculture (crop production), extreme weather events (type, intensity, magnitude) and environmental protection.

67. The session organiser concluded by noting that the meeting participants agreed on the recommendations on infrastructure, but that the report should provide some more specific examples and priorities. A section on the SEEA central framework will be added to the report including practical examples of its usefulness. Legislation issues discussed in the report should be revisited, especially to include the need of a clearer mandate for NSOs to coordinate the work on environmental statistics. Clarity about the responsibilities of the agencies involved in measuring climate change related issues is also an important issue to cover. The meeting participants considered it useful to deal separately with the infrastructure challenges of inventories and other climate change related statistics. Some of the current initiatives, such as the PRTR and ILO work on green jobs need to be better reflected in the report.

V. Closing session – the way forward

68. The closing session was organised by Mr. R. Smith of Canada. The session discussed the way forward in developing climate change related statistics. It considered how to progress in climate change related statistics both nationally and internationally and what should be the next steps in finalising the report of the Task Force.

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[2] Bio-physical data refers for instance to: soil (land-use, vegetation, droughts, floods, soil quality), use of natural resources (water consumption, energy use and sources), waste generation, agriculture (crop production), extreme weather events (type, intensity, magnitude) and environmental protection

[3] Socio-economic data could include for instance: drivers of climate change (production, consumption), economy (gross value added, output by industries, costs and prices), employment, population (density, household structures, health, migration, urbanisation), transport, infrastructure networks and tourism, taxation and subsidies, financial support, innovation and technology diffusion.

A. Further work on climate change related statistics

69. The key conclusion from the meeting was the need for close collaboration to define the way forward in a coordinated effort. The meeting participants emphasized the need to keep the momentum for improving the contribution of official statistics to climate change analysis and monitoring.

70. The meeting pointed out that countries need to gain experience in implementing the initial set of recommendations before launching further methodological work. Countries should be brought together to share ideas and good practices and to discuss areas for collaboration among the international statistical community, greenhouse gas inventory compilers and the relevant international organisations. Therefore, the meeting concluded that establishing a Forum for discussions among the producers and users of climate change related statistics, and with the participation of IPCC, UNFCCC and WMO would be the logical next step. The work of the Forum would include the following:

(a) Sharing development ideas and experience, as well as good practices in climate change related statistics;

(b) Discussing collaboration, roles and division of responsibilities among the statistical community, greenhouse gas inventory compilers and the relevant international organisations;

(c) Discussing the priority data needs in climate change related statistics to enable selection of a key set of climate change related statistics;

(d) Discussing concepts and measurement frameworks to be developed for the key climate change related statistics;

(e) Identifying areas where practical methodological guidance would need to be developed for NSOs' work.

71. The Forum should be country driven and provide a channel for regular collaboration among those working with climate change related statistics. It would help achieve a mutual understanding of each other's work and find a way to improving climate information services in coordination among the groups that are currently working as separate streams. The Forum could identify specific areas of climate change related statistics that require further methodological work. These could be addressed by setting up a dedicated task force to help countries progress with the related methodological work.

72. The meeting discussed how to support those who want to move forward in the implementation of the recommendations. The participants agreed that a small Steering Group, including 6-8 countries and partners, would be needed to provide guidance to the process. The Task Force will prepare a concrete proposal on the format of further work for consultation among the meeting participants before submission to the CES and its Bureau. Thereafter, the national statistical offices of UNECE countries and international statistical organisations active in the UNECE region will decide on the further work.

73. The chair thanked the meeting participants for their active contributions to the meeting, and noted the need to continue the dialogue among the international statistical community, UNFCCC, IPCC, WMO and other relevant international organisations. They should define together how NSOs could effectively engage in the inventory process through the existing mechanisms. The international organisations agreed to take part in the work of the Forum and offered their support for defining the possible role of national statistical offices from their point of view. They underlined the importance of extending the work to countries that are at early stages of developing their inventory system, and also to countries beyond the UNECE region.

B. Finalising the report and the recommendations

74. The meeting agreed on the Task Force's recommendations and considered them comprehensive. The participants noted the usefulness of some of the examples presented in the report. Several countries offered to provide additional case studies. The meeting provided a number of comments on how to make the recommendations more implementable and how to sequence the steps to be taken.

75. The recommendations should emphasize NSOs' role as the coordinators of the national statistical systems, but at the same time look beyond the statistical system to include the key players involved in measuring climate change related issues. The statistical terminology used in the report needs to be explained to those outside the international statistical community (e.g. by providing a glossary as part of the report).

76. More thinking is needed on what are the key user needs for NSOs to respond to. Climate change related statistics do challenge NSOs' infrastructure and it may take a long time to notably improve the current contribution of official statisticians to climate debate. There are also legislative challenges that should be further elaborated in the report.

77. The recommendations of the report were modified to reflect the discussions at the meeting and were consulted with the CES Bureau at its meeting on 28-29 January 2014. The report was then circulated for electronic consultation to all CES member countries and organisations, and to all those countries and organisations that were represented in one of the Meetings on Climate Change Related Statistics for Producers and Users on 19-20 November 2012 and 8-9 October 2013. The final recommendations will be presented to the Conference of European Statisticians in April 2014 for endorsement.

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Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda
Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Report of the second meeting of the 2013/2014 Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with the Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau (ECE/CES/2007/8), adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians at its fifty-third plenary session. Referring to the Rules, the Bureau acts as a steering body of the Conference. The report includes decisions taken by the Bureau at its 21-22 October 2013 meeting on the work carried out under the auspices of the Conference.

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I. Introduction

1. The second meeting of the 2013/2014 Bureau was held in Geneva on 21-22 October 2013. The following members of the Bureau attended: Mr. W. Smith (Chairman, Canada), Mr. B. Aydemir (Turkey), Ms. M. Bruun (Finland), Ms. J. Matheson (the United Kingdom), Mr. O. Osaulenko (Ukraine), Mr. B. Pink (Australia) and Mr. E. Sojo Garza-Aldape (Mexico). The following permanent observers also attended: Mr. L. M. Ducharme (IMF), Ms. M. Durand, (OECD), Mr. P. Everaers (representing Mr. W. Radermacher, Eurostat), Mr. A. Kosarev (representing Mr. Sokolin, (CIS-STAT)), Ms. K. Osaki-Tomita (UNSD) and Ms. L. Bratanova (UNECE). Mr. S. Alkalaj attended at the invitation of the Chair of the Bureau for agenda item 3. Mr. S. Chatterji (World Health Organization) attended for agenda item 9.

2. The following persons assisted the members of the Bureau: Ms. A. L. MacMillan (Canada), Ms. I. Muzychenko (Ukraine), Ms. S. Onnur (Turkey), Mr. Mario Palma (Mexico), Ms. C. Sa and Ms. M. J. Santos (Eurostat). Ms. T. Luige of UNECE served as Secretary of the meeting.

3. The following staff of the UNECE Statistical Division also attended: Mr. C. Boldsen, Ms. A. Peltola, Mr. R. Peltola, Mr. S. Vale, Mr. P. Valente and Mr. A. Vikat.

II. In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas

A. Big data

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/2 by UNECE with input from a Task Team on Big Data

4. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review on Big Data based on a paper prepared by the Task Team on Big Data, coordinated by the secretariat. The paper outlined current initiatives and proposed an international collaboration project on the use of Big Data for official statistics, to be overseen by the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services.

5. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) The paper provides a very good overview of the issues concerning use of Big Data in official statistics. Many of the issues are common across organisations. Individual statistical organisations do not have sufficient resources to tackle all issues related to Big Data, therefore international collaboration is needed;

(b) Big Data is not an end in itself, it must add value for users of statistics. It is important to see if Big Data can help with problems that official statistics is trying to solve, for example concerning issues related to globalisation and timeliness. Official statistics should create an environment for using Big Data rather than develop applications for specific subject–matter areas;

(c) Challenges for official statistics in using Big Data are mainly methodological. Solutions to technological problems may be found outside official statistics. Active collaboration with the private sector, academia, and others with experience of using Big Data will be essential. We should identify what official statistics can contribute to using Big Data, as well as the areas where other sectors have more to offer;

(d) The scope of the proposed project on Big Data in official statistics is very broad and ambitious, some prioritisation of activities is needed;

(e) A mixture of conceptual and practical issues should be addressed in the project. Several Bureau members considered the Work Package no. 1 as a priority. Ultimately the scope and priorities of the project will be demand driven, as the resources that statistical offices will commit for each work package will determine the outcomes that can be achieved;

(f) The project proposal does not address some key strategic issues around procurement, relationships with Big Data suppliers (particularly for global sources), sustainability of supply and public perceptions about the use of different types of Big Data. It should also pay more attention to communication issues, including to communication platforms;

(g) The work packages on training and project management could be further developed. The project should identify where other stakeholders have skills that are lacking in the official statistics community. This will highlight opportunities to develop strategic partnerships based on mutual benefit, rather than try to compete with other sectors;

(h) The proposed project should provide some case studies on the use of Big Data;

(i) The project should consider the needs of less-developed countries, and should be open to them to participate and benefit;

(j) Coordination with UNSD activities is needed. The proposed agenda for the next Statistical Commission session includes an item on Big Data. A new sub-group of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals has been established to consider Big Data issues. UNSD intends to play a coordinating role across regions.

Conclusions

6. The Bureau expressed its support for the project proposal. It stressed the sense of urgency and asked the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services to take this work forward.

B. Entrepreneurship

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/3 by OECD and Eurostat, ECE/CES/BUR/2012/OCT/3/Add.1 by UNECE

7. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of entrepreneurship statistics based on a paper prepared by OECD and Eurostat. The paper outlined current initiatives and proposed future work, including the establishment of a task force under the CES. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) Collection of entrepreneurship data can provide an impetus for improving the quality of business registers, especially in less developed statistical systems. This in turn has a positive effect on the quality of other economic statistics and national accounts. Following guidelines and good practices in business registers are essential for producing good entrepreneurship statistics;

(b) The data on entrepreneurship are often not comparable between countries. The OECD and Eurostat data sets can be used as sources for comparable data;

(c) There is a limit to harmonising entrepreneurship statistics between countries. Many determinants of entrepreneurship differ across countries, for example the legal basis, social and cultural aspects, market conditions, access to finance and knowledge, etc;

(d) The use of data from economic censuses for entrepreneurship statistics could be mentioned in the paper;

(e) It is extremely difficult to collect data on turnover of businesses and closed businesses while these data are of great interest;

(f) A Task Force on entrepreneurship statistics under the CES could be important to widen the scope of this work beyond EU and OECD countries;

(g) The need to ensure effective coordination between the existing Task Force on Statistical business registers, and the proposed Task Force on entrepreneurship was stressed.

Conclusions

8. The Bureau asked the Task Force on statistical business registers to address the issues related to business registers in the in-depth review paper.

9. The Bureau asked the secretariat in cooperation with OECD and Eurostat to draft a proposal for further work with concrete objectives and outcomes for the next Bureau meeting in January 2014. The on-going work in entrepreneurship statistics and related areas should be taken into account in the proposal.

C. Review of the outcomes of in-depth reviews

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/4 by UNECE

10. The Bureau discussed the outcomes of in-depth reviews carried out during the last seven years, and considered how to effectively use in-depth reviews as a tool for coordination. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) In-depth reviews are a key to guiding the work of the CES and ensuring that it addresses the gaps and emerging areas. The reviews lead to concrete outcomes in terms of guidelines and recommendations;

(b) The good outcome of the process depends on high quality contributions by volunteers who prepare the papers that provide basis for the discussion. The in-depth review papers are of great value and should be promoted beyond CES, for example by sharing the papers with the other regional commissions;

(c) Not all in-depth reviews need to lead to new work under the CES. Many issues discussed have been taken up at other fora;

(d) In-depth review papers should prioritise the issues and proposed actions taking into account the limited resources of statistical offices;

(e) In-depth reviews should take into account the user needs for statistics. Considering the viewpoint of users could provide new ideas for selecting the in-depth review topics.

Conclusions

11. The Bureau considered the in-depth review process of great value for CES as it allows focusing the work on most topical areas which leads to tangible results. The Bureau

noted that selection of the right topics and high quality of the in-depth review papers is crucial for ensuring a good outcome of a review.

12. The Bureau will select the topics for the next in-depth reviews in January 2014.

13. The Secretariat should consider ways for sharing the review papers with other regional commissions, and promoting their use in the statistical community.

14. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to update the template for in-depth review papers to reflect the discussions. In addition to the issues currently included in the template, the reviews should identify priorities for national statistical offices taking into account their limited resources, and analyse key user needs.

15. The Bureau considered useful to prepare a 'guide' for the new members briefly describing the annual working cycle and processes of the CES and its Bureau. The Guide would include the Rules governing the CES, the paper on the outcomes of the in-depth reviews, recommendations for organising the CES seminars, templates for papers, etc.

III. Meeting with the top management of UNECE

16. The Bureau met with the UNECE Executive Secretary, Mr. Sven Alkalaj. The Executive Secretary underlined that statistics is a priority working area of the UNECE and referred to the good evaluation of the statistical work during the UNECE review.

17. The Executive Secretary emphasized the efficient way in which the Conference and its subsidiary bodies work, in particular through Task Forces with concrete terms of reference, deliverables and sunset clauses. He emphasised that the flexible way of working allows for taking on new subject areas as they emerge, and noted that the concrete results of the CES work, such as recommendations and guidelines, have a clear value added for the region and beyond.

IV. UNECE Statistical programme for 2014

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/5 by UNECE

18. The Bureau discussed the draft UNECE Statistical Programme for 2014 and the various Steering Groups and Task Forces that are related to the activities. The terms of reference of currently active Steering Groups and Task Forces are available at www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html.

19. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The work programmes of UNECE, Eurostat and OECD include a high level of complementarity: many activities are either pursued jointly or are closely coordinated;

(b) Paragraph 17 in the document (on leading, composite and sentiment indicators) should be reformulated as it refers to the threat that these indicators may compromise statistical offices' objectivity or reliability. All statistics include subjective information as the data are collected from individuals, even in business statistics. This does not necessarily compromise the objectivity or reliability of official statistics;

(c) The work on human capital should be coordinated with OECD (paragraph 36);

(d) The work on environment statistics should take into account the newly set up group to ensure coordination of work on SEEA implementation (paragraph 40).

Conclusions

20. The Bureau approved the 2014 Statistical Programme subject to the suggestions made in the discussion.

A. Ageing-related statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/6 by the Task Force

21. The Bureau reviewed the work plan of the Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics, and discussed further work. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The progress of work of the Task Force should be reviewed annually;

(b) The participation of statisticians, policymakers and academics in the Task Force is valuable but may be challenging. The secretariat and the Chair should carefully consider how to organize the work to ensure the Task Force's progress;

(c) The secretariat of the UNECE Population Unit will also support the Task Force. The organization of work was on the agenda of the meeting of the Task Force on 27 November;

(d) If the model adopted in this Task Force where statisticians, policymakers and academia work together is successful, it may be used in future also in other work areas of the Conference.

Conclusions

22. The Bureau asked the Task Force to prepare a progress report for the October 2014 meeting of the Bureau.

B. Population and housing censuses

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/7 by the Steering Group

23. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the Steering Group and Task Forces on population and housing censuses that are preparing the CES census recommendations for the 2020 round, and discussed further work. The Secretariat reported the main outcomes of the expert meeting on censuses that took place in Geneva from 30 September to 3 October 2013.

24. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Preparing the recommendations for the 2020 round of censuses to be available in 2015 is a challenge given the rapid changes in technology and data sources. However, early availability of the recommendations is necessary for countries for the census preparation process, and allows to seek most cost-effective solutions;

(b) An additional challenge for the 2020 census recommendations is the need to be relevant for all countries regardless of the census method used. There is a big diversification of census methods in the UNECE region, and the recommendations need to be flexible;

(c) An increasing number of countries are using or planning to use census methods based on combination of sources (e.g. registers and traditional field collection, or internet data collection). More guidance on these approaches, including the use of administrative data, internet data collection and paperless census methods is needed;

(d) The CIS countries will most probably use the traditional census method in the 2020 round but there is increasing interest in using registers, and a gradual move to combined data sources can be expected;

(e) UNSD leads the global census programme. UNSD and UNECE closely coordinate their work in this area. The lessons learned by the European countries are very useful for countries in other regions, such as on register based censuses, costs-benefit analysis, etc;

(f) The censuses should be defined more in terms of outcomes than methods, they should be considered not as a special event but as a regular source for social and demographic information;

(g) There should be a strong link between the new census recommendations and capacity building.

Conclusions

25. The Bureau supported the work of the Steering Group and Task Forces in keeping up with the challenging work plan.

C. Crime classification

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/8 by the Task Force

26. The Bureau discussed the accomplishments and the final report of the UNECE-UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Task Force on crime classification. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Task Force did an excellent work in an uncharted territory. The work is continued by the initiative led by UNODC and Mexico (INEGI) under the mandate of the UN Statistical Commission. A second version of the international crime classification is being finalised and 46 countries have indicated their interest in testing the classification. A new manual and the classification should be submitted to the UNSC in 2015;

(b) There are big challenges in implementing the classification and it will be a long process to introduce changes in practice. Crime statistics is often not of high priority and many countries do not consider important international comparability in this area;

(c) UNECE should be involved in the new expert group set up by the UN Statistical Commission to ensure continuity and enable reporting of the results of the work at global level back to the CES Bureau.

Conclusions

27. The Bureau congratulated the Task Force for the excellent pioneering work on crime classifications. The Bureau closed the Task Force on crime classification since its activities will be continued in the framework of developing an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes under the UNSC.

28. The Bureau asked the secretariat to report back in 2015 on how the work at the global level has progressed.

D. Health statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/9 by the Steering Group

29. The Bureau discussed the accomplishments and the final report of the Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Steering Group on Measuring Health Status (also known as the Budapest Initiative (BI)). The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The work of the Budapest Initiative was carried out in close cooperation with the Washington group on disability statistics. The question set on measuring health status developed by the Budapest Initiative can be considered as a subset of the survey questions on disability discussed by the Washington group;

(b) Although the work of the Budapest Initiative contributed to improving international comparability in the measurement of health status, there is still strong need for further improvements. Unfortunately only few of the BI questions were included in the European Health Interview Survey;

(c) Health statistics currently focus mainly on mortality, good information on health status is still lacking. Health statistics are increasingly important because of the high government spending on health, and ageing population in many countries. There are unresolved problems in health statistics, including coordination with WHO and other international organizations.

Conclusions

30. The Bureau thanked the Steering Group for the good work and closed the group.

E. Global production

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/10 by the Task Force

31. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the Task Force on Global Production, including the proposal to extend the mandate of the Task Force by one year. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Implementation of 2008 SNA and the revised Balance of Payments Manual (BPM6) are major tasks in all statistical offices. The work of the Task Force on global production will be very important in terms of providing practical guidance to countries on treating global production arrangements in the national accounts and balance of payments statistics;

(b) The Task Force has identified conceptual and measurement issues related to the recording of the so-called factoryless goods producers (FGP) and the determination of the economic ownership inside global production chains, in particular for intellectual property products. The recommendations will have significant impact on national accounts and balance of payments statistics;

(c) The recommendations should be finalised as quickly as possible as countries are already in the process of preparing the implementation of 2008 SNA and BPM6. However, the Bureau stressed the need to develop clear recommendations on a solid foundation, and take the necessary time to consult the recommendations with all involved countries, organisations and relevant expert groups;

(d) The recommendations will be important for all countries, not only in the UNECE region. Other regional commissions should be kept well informed and if possible involved in the process. A number of individual countries outside the region, such as Japan,

India, Republic of Korea and China have already participated in the work and several others like Indonesia, Vietnam or Malaysia would be interested in doing so;

(e) Several EU countries will be able to share practical examples in implementing 2008 SNA and BPM6 in near future and their country case studies could be included in the Guide. The extension of the work by one year will allow more time to collect practical experience from countries;

(f) The work of the Task Force is an example of good cooperation among countries and international organizations, such as UNECE, Eurostat, OECD, IMF and UNSD. Global production is a very complex area and new issues will continue to emerge that should be dealt with at international level. It was considered necessary to have a forum where these issues could be discussed and experience shared. This could be done in terms of a functional mailbox, wiki or a similar platform, back-to-back meetings with the joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Expert Group on national accounts, or separate expert meetings.

Conclusions

32. The Bureau expressed strong support to the work of the Task Force and extended its mandate by one year. The Bureau agreed with the proposed way forward, including the submission of a draft version of the Guide to the Bureau in January 2014. The Bureau underlined that issues, which require further consultation with relevant expert groups (such as recommendations on FGP and economic ownership) should be clearly highlighted in the draft Guide before sending to countries for consultation in spring 2014, since incorrect or unclear recommendations would create considerable confusion. The secretariat in consultation with the Task Force members should prepare a more detailed proposal on how to organise in future the exchange of experience between countries on issues related to global production, including further discussions on methodological issues.

F. Business registers

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/11 by the Task Force

33. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the Task Force on International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers, including the proposal to extend the work by one year. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Guidelines are very important because of the key role of statistical business registers for the production of economic statistics and national accounts;

(b) It is necessary to allow sufficient time for drafting the chapters, incorporating comments from countries, thorough editing and consultation of the Guidelines with CES member countries and relevant organisations;

(c) The Guidelines should cover issues related to entrepreneurship indicators as raised in the in-depth review of entrepreneurship statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/3);

(d) The work is an example of good cooperation between UNECE and UNSD;

(e) Capacity building will be important to ensure the implementation of the Guidelines in countries with less developed statistical systems.

Conclusions

34. The Bureau extended the mandate of the Task Force by one year and approved the updated work plan. The Task Force should ensure that the Guidelines cover the issues that are relevant for entrepreneurship statistics.

G. Modernisation of statistical production and services

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/12 by the High-Level Group

35. The Bureau reviewed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Executive Board and the four modernisation committees, to be established under the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services (HLG), replacing the current structure of the various existing expert groups that have been working under HLG.

36. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau expressed strong support for the work of HLG;

(b) The structure should not be too complicated and should support innovation and flexibility. The new governance structure is a consolidation of the existing working structures. Several expert groups have been closed and their activities absorbed into the new structure, for example the Steering Group on Statistical Metadata and the Sharing Advisory Board;

(c) There should be clear division of labour between the Committees and clear objectives and outputs. The expected outcomes of the work should be precisely formulated to avoid any overlaps with work carried out by other groups;

(d) Coordination and communication between the groups will be ensured through representatives of the modernisation committees being part of the Executive Board, all groups sharing a common secretariat, and twice-yearly reports to the HLG on activities and issues;

(e) Reporting twice a year may be too much unless the report is going to be brief;

(f) Coordination with related initiatives such as the Statistical Network is important;

(g) The secretary of HLG has an observer status in the Statistical Network, and a reciprocal arrangement is under consideration;

(h) The Modernisation Committee on Standards will coordinate different standardisation activities and ensure greater interoperability of standards.

Conclusions

37. The Bureau approved the proposed governance structure for the modernization work and the terms of reference of the new groups, subject to HLG reviewing and clarifying the objectives and outcomes of the groups at its meeting in November 2013.

H. Human resources management and training

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/13 by the Steering Group

38. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the Steering Group on Human Resources Management and Training, and discussed further work including the topics of a workshop to be organised in 2014. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau praised the publication Human Resources Management and Training. Compilation of good practices in statistical offices, published in early 2013;

(b) The Steering Group should address also relevant 'external' factors, such as how the labour market is changing and how to compete with other employers; training of

users including members of the press and policymakers; and the evolving role of national statistical offices;

(c) The Bureau proposed addressing a number of points under the planned 2014 workshop, such as: training of users; dealing with budget cuts and their impact on staff wellbeing; post-training follow-up and knowledge-sharing; strategies to attract and retain young statisticians in their early careers in light of competition; releasing the creativity of employees, and flexible working arrangements.

Conclusions

39. The Bureau asked the Steering Group to reflect the suggestions from the discussion in finalising the outline for the 2014 HRMT workshop.

G. Measuring quality of employment

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/14 by the Expert Group

40. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment, and discussed further work in finalising the draft *Statistical Framework for Measuring Quality of Employment*. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau commended the Expert Group's cooperation with other organizations that are working in related areas;

(b) The Bureau reiterated the importance of focusing on statistical measurement issues and tools, and avoiding any value judgements;

(c) The Expert Group should consider if the dimension on security of employment could be improved by including indicators on e.g. new forms of employment contracts. The difficulty of finding reliable data on this topic was noted;

(d) The Expert Group should reflect in the recommendations the different availability of data sources among countries, and suggest alternative sources.

Conclusions

41. The Bureau supported the work and encouraged the group to finalize the list of indicators for all dimensions of the statistical framework.

J. Environmental indicators

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/15 by UNECE

42. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the UNECE Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators, and discussed further work in finalising the updated *Guidelines for the application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Guidelines include a long list of indicators many of which require several associated data tables. Compiling this data set will be a large task and will need significant investment from countries;

(b) There is support to the implementation of the Guidelines, but more detailed discussion on how this work could be balanced with other operational requirements may be needed;

(c) The Guidelines should include a reference to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). Reference should also be made to other data reporting requirements, such as the OECD SEEA core tables, the OECD Green Growth reporting and the Eurostat reporting on environmental accounting;

(d) The work done by the Task Force is appreciated and the proposed core set of indicators is considered appropriate for the region. It was proposed to include the new set of indicators in Eurostat's upcoming environmental indicators metadata catalogue.

1. Conclusions

43. The Bureau appreciated the practical and useful work carried out by the Task Force with EECCA and SEE countries, and supported the work on finalising the updated *Guidelines for the application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.*

K. Other issues

44. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the outcome of the Second Meeting on Climate Change Related Statistics, held on 8-9 October 2013 in Geneva. The participants of the expert meeting supported the Task Force's recommendations, and offered concrete examples of good practices to be included in the final report. As an outcome of the work, good working relations were established with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

V. Strategic Framework 2016-2017

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/16 by UNECE

45. The Bureau discussed the Strategic Framework for 2016-2017 for the UNECE Statistics Subprogramme. It was noted that:

(a) The text on risks should reflect the challenge of limited resources of statistical offices as an obstacle to responding to the increasing and changing information needs;

(b) The text on strategy should reflect the expectations to work on global geospatial information management (GGIM).

Conclusions

46. The Bureau approved the Strategic Framework for 2016-2017 subject to the changes listed above.

VI. Guidelines for harmonizing time-use surveys

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/17 by the Task Force

47. The Bureau discussed the *Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys* prepared by the Task Force on Time-Use Surveys. The draft Guidelines were consulted with all CES members in April-May 2013. In June 2013, the CES plenary session requested the Task Force to reflect the comments from the electronic consultation and from the CES plenary

session in the Guidelines, and present the Guidelines for endorsement to the Bureau. The Bureau also discussed possible further work in areas identified by the Task Force.

48. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Guidelines provide a good example of efficient work using electronic communication and only one face-to-face meeting;

(b) The Guidelines complement the existing guidance material and constitute an important step in the harmonization of time-use surveys;

(c) The Guidelines should consider the latest resolution of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilisation;

(d) A United Nations expert group is currently working on the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS) planned to be submitted for adoption to the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2015;

(e) Mexico intends to promote the use of the Guidelines among statisticians in the Americas;

(f) The secretariat could undertake consultations with ILO about the possibility of developing guidelines on measuring unpaid household work;

(g) Creating a platform for sharing reports on the implementation of light time-use diaries and novel data collection methods would be very useful for countries that are planning their time-use surveys.

Conclusions

49. The Bureau endorsed the Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys and requested the secretariat to proceed with their publication and dissemination. The Bureau closed the Task Force on Time-Use Surveys as it has successfully completed its work.

50. The Bureau requested the secretariat to present a proposal for future work on time-use surveys to its next meeting.

VII. Follow-up to the CES 2013 plenary session

A. Seminar on challenges in implementing SEEA and measuring sustainable development in follow-up to Rio+20

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/18 by UNECE

51. The Bureau discussed proposals for follow-up work as a result of the 2013 CES seminar on measuring sustainable development, and to support the implementation of the CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development. The CES plenary session endorsed the Recommendations in June 2013.

52. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The UN Open Working Group (OWG) has asked the UN Statistical Division in New York to prepare short papers on statistical issues, possible data sources and measurability for the thematic sessions of OWG. The co-chairs of the UNSC Friends of the Chair (FOC) group on further measures of progress organised a one day event on 17 December 2013 to discuss the measurement issues between policy makers and statisticians;

(b) It will be important to translate the Recommendations into Russian;

(c) Australia, Mexico, Turkey and Ukraine confirmed their willingness to pilot test the SD indicators proposed in the Recommendations;

(d) It is important to have a platform for countries to share experiences in implementing SEEA and measuring sustainable development. The work under CES on supporting implementation and sharing of experience on SEEA should be coordinated with the London group.

Conclusions

53. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with selected countries, a more detailed proposal for further work on methodological issues in measuring sustainable development and for sharing experience in implementation of SEEA (in line with the proposals in document ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/18), and organise the pilot testing of the *CES recommendations on measuring sustainable development*.

B. Seminar on challenges in providing access to micro-data for research

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/19 by UNECE

54. The Bureau discussed proposals for follow-up work resulting from the 2013 CES seminar on challenges in providing access to micro-data for research. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Follow-up actions should be incorporated within existing activities where possible;

(b) The OECD Expert Group on Micro-data Access is preparing a handbook that will address some of the proposed follow-up activities. Its mandate has been extended for one year. It is proposed to wait until the results of this work are available before deciding whether to launch new activities under CES;

(c) The glossary being developed by the OECD Expert Group will be finalised by early 2014;

(d) It is important to have a platform to share experiences. UNECE has transferred the publication *Managing Statistical Confidentiality and Micro-data Access* to a wiki format, and is seeking new and updated case studies of national experiences;

(e) Eurostat will provide a case study in early 2014, based on the application of Commission Regulation (EU) 557/2013 on access to confidential data for scientific purposes;

(f) It was proposed to combine the follow-up activities A (sharing experience) and C (updating good practices in the 2007 publication on managing confidentiality), as well as B (preparing a check list for the development of a micro-data access system) and F (harmonising terminology).

Conclusions

55. The Secretariat will follow up with the work taking into account the suggestions by the Bureau.

VII. Preparations for the CES 2014 plenary session

A. Evaluation of the 61st CES plenary session

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/20 by UNECE

56. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2013 CES plenary session were presented for information.

B. Organization of the CES seminars

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/21 by UNECE

57. The Bureau discussed the organization of the CES seminars, and reviewed the *Guidelines for organizing CES seminars*. The following points were made in the discussion:

(a) The seminars could be more outward looking and invite stakeholders from outside official statistics;

(b) The session organiser should prepare a short summary of the main issues in the papers capturing the critical, substantive issues for the discussion;

(c) The papers should not be too long, about 6 pages would be ideal. The papers should focus on issues and propose solutions. The seminar and session organisers should contact authors to orient the papers towards the main issues that are planned to be considered during the sessions;

(d) No difference will be made between invited and supporting papers. The seminar and session organisers should agree with some authors that their papers will be submitted earlier (about 3 months before the meeting) so that these can be translated into French and Russian;

(e) Technical possibilities to enable experts in countries to follow the seminar and to make the discussion more interactive should be considered (such as web-streaming, recording the discussion in video, tweeting, etc.). The related costs and the simultaneous interpretation into French and Russian have to be taken into account. The more interactive tools can be tested at expert meetings before using at the CES plenary session;

(f) The format of the seminars could be flexible and CES could experiment with new formats.

Conclusions

58. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to update the *Recommendations for organising the CES seminars* to offer more flexibility, and reflect the issues raised during the discussion.

C. Organization of the CES 2014 seminar "What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?"

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/22 by United Kingdom

59. The Bureau discussed the organization of the CES 2014 seminar on the value of official statistics based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizer, the United Kingdom. Sweden and Eurostat will be the session organizers. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The discussion at the seminar should focus on practical issues;

(b) It would be interesting to involve users and other stakeholders in the seminar, possibly as keynote speakers;

(c) The value of official statistics should be discussed both from the national and international perspectives. The value depends on the context – international comparability is a value that is often not considered by policy makers at a national level;

(d) The views of young statisticians on how to communicate the value of official statistics would be interesting;

(e) Other interesting materials that could be used at the seminar are: the World Bank video related to Open Data and the results of the French survey on trust in official statistics.

Conclusions

60. The seminar organizers will update the outline for the January 2014 Bureau meeting, taking into account the suggestions by the Bureau. The seminar will take place on Wednesday, 9 April 2014. The deadline for papers to be sent for translation will be 15 January 2014.

61. CES Bureau members were invited to make proposals for a keynote speaker.

D. Organization of the CES 2014 seminar "Migration statistics"

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/23 by Mexico and UNECE

62. The Bureau discussed the organization of the CES seminar on migration statistics based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Mexico and UNECE. The first session is jointly organized by Norway and UNSD, and the second session by the Russian Federation and CIS-STAT. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Mexico proposed to start both sessions with a presentation by international organizations providing an overview of general trends or issues, followed by a paper summarizing the country contributions. OECD would prepare the lead paper for session 1 (on recent migration trends) and Eurostat for session 2 (on methods to improve measurement of migration);

(b) The seminar should take into account the results of the Conference "People on the Move" organised by the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) in Ottawa in 2006;

(c) CIS-STAT offered to translate four papers into Russian, in addition to the six papers to be translated by the UN;

(d) The paper by Ukraine belongs to Session 1;

(e) There will be a joint paper by Finland and Estonia on methodology of using mobile phone data to measure migration between the two countries.

Conclusions

63. The seminar organizer will update the outline for the January 2014 Bureau meeting, taking into account the suggestions by the Bureau. The seminar will take place on Thursday, 10 April 2014. The deadline for papers to be sent for translation through the UN translation services will be 15 January 2014.

E. Report on indicators of gender equality planned to be submitted to the CES 2014 plenary session

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/24 by the Task Force

64. The Bureau discussed the draft report of the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The report is of excellent quality, well-coordinated with existing initiatives and a useful contribution to the measurement of gender equality;

(b) The proposed indicators need to be kept consistent with the global minimum set of gender indicators developed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, in view of the envisaged minor updates to the global set;

(c) Mexico highlighted the possibility of disseminating this report at the Fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics that they will host in November 2014.

Conclusions

65. The secretariat will send the report for electronic consultation to all CES members in the beginning of 2014. If the outcome of the electronic consultation is positive, the report will be submitted to the CES 2014 plenary session for endorsement.

F. Preparation of the formal session, draft agenda and timetable for the 2014 plenary session

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2013/OCT/25 by UNECE

66. The Bureau reviewed the draft timetable of the CES 2014 plenary session.

Conclusions

67. The 62nd CES plenary session will take place on 9 - 11 (a.m.) April 2014 in Paris. The Bureau approved the draft timetable with the understanding that the detailed timing may still be adjusted. The secretariat will prepare an updated timetable of the CES 2014 plenary session for the 2014 January meeting of the Bureau.

68. The Bureau emphasised the importance of translating the main papers for the CES plenary session into French and Russian. These include the provisional agenda, report, one main paper for each sub-item on the agenda, and six main papers for each of the 1-day seminars held during the CES plenary session (a total of 25 papers).

IX. Presentation of the World Health Organization's activities related to statistics

69. The World Health Organization (WHO) presented its statistical activities. WHO mainly works in three areas related to statistics: monitoring levels and trends in health; developing standards and tools for health statistics; and strengthening countries' capacity to monitoring health issues.

70. WHO is mandated to work with Health Ministries to monitor levels and trends in health. Some of this is statistical work, and some is at the stage of research. For example, WHO produces Global Health Estimates in partnership with other UN agencies and the academia. The information is disseminated through the Global Health Observatory which is publicly available.

71. Concerning standards and tools, WHO is currently updating the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Work has been started recently with the international household survey network to achieve a consensus for using household surveys in health measurement, e.g. for measuring health expenditure through household surveys.

72. WHO also engages with countries to check their data and build capacities to produce the required health-related information. WHO is working with about 90 countries to improve accountability for women's and children's health. A study on global ageing and adult health (SAGE) is being carried out in several countries. WHO is also working to ensure that health issues will be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda. Recently, a global health statistics reference group has been set up to guide the WHO work with priorities and the way forward.

73. WHO expressed interest to coordinate their work more closely with CES, in particular the work on time-use, subjective wellbeing and ageing. UNECE has been invited, for example to work together with WHO on a model disability survey.

74. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) It is necessary to find better models of cooperation between WHO and the statistical community as equal partners. Good cooperation would be beneficial for both sides allowing WHO to obtain better data, use better the information systems of national statistical offices and avoid duplication of data collection processes;

(b) Coordination can be improved both at national and international levels. WHO works with countries' Ministries of Health and recommends them to engage with national statistical offices. This does not work in all countries. UNECE and WHO may explore how to ensure that this recommendation is followed up. At international level, cooperation between WHO and other international organizations can be improved. WHO was encouraged to attend the international meetings where coordination issues are discussed (such as the Coordinating Committee of Statistical Activities);

(c) Health is one of the many areas to be included in household surveys which provide fundamental information to the statistical system. These data include, in addition to health data, information on socio-economic conditions, quality of life etc. in an internationally comparable format. Close cooperation between the Health Ministries and national statistical offices is necessarily to use the scarce resources efficiently;

(d) The knowledge of statistical offices could be beneficial in capacity building through the existing mechanisms and collaboration networks.

Conclusions

75. The Bureau thanked the WHO representative for the interesting and informative presentation. The Bureau members are willing to work more closely with WHO and health institutions to improve health statistics at both national and international levels.

X. Dates and venue of the next CES Bureau meetings

76. The CES Bureau confirmed the dates for its next meetings as follows:

(a) The next CES Bureau meetings will take place on 28-29 January 2014 in Geneva and on 21-22 October 2014, venue to be decided;

(b) A short Bureau meeting will take place during the CES 2014 plenary session to decide on the topics for the 2015 CES seminars and any other urgent matters (a meeting of 15-20 minutes during the lunch break on 9 April 2014);

(c) In 2015, the first CES Bureau meeting would take place tentatively during the week of 9 February 2015, venue and exact dates to be decided.

77. The 62nd CES plenary session will take place in Paris, back-to-back with the OECD Statistics Committee meeting, starting at 9:30 on 9 April and finishing by 12:30 on 11 April 2014.

78. The 63rd CES plenary session will take place in Geneva, during the week of 8 June 2015.